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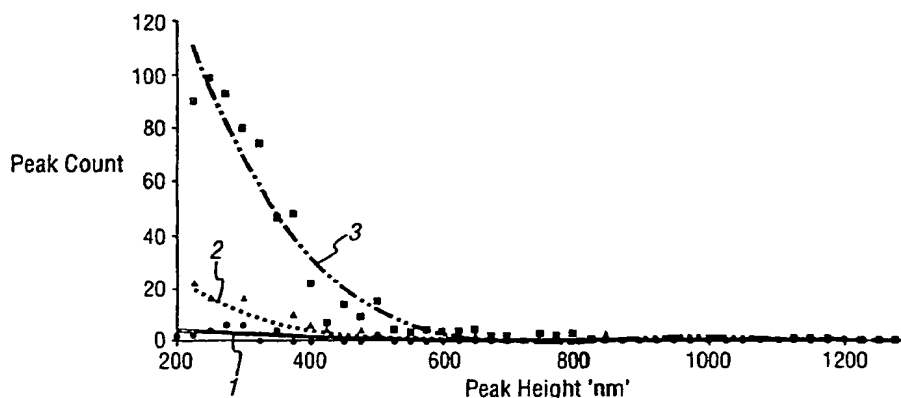


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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): DUPONT  
TEIJIN FILMS U.S. LIMITED PARTNERSHIP  
[US/US]; Building 27, Barley Mill Plaza, Routes 141 &  
48, Wilmington, DE 19805 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): ROBINSON, Ju-  
lian, Neal [GB/GB]; 1 Low Easby Cottages, Easby, North  
Yorkshire TS9 6JH (GB). EVESON, Robert, William  
[GB/GB]; 11 Wardell Close, Yarm, Cleveland TS15 9UZ  
(GB). RAKOS, Karl [GB/GB]; 11 Meadowdale, Chilton,  
Durham DL17 0RW (GB).
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(57) Abstract: The use of a coating composition comprising: (a) from about 5 to about 50 weight percent solids, the solids compris-  
ing from about 10 to about 70 weight percent silica and from about 90 to about 30 weight percent of a partially polymerized organic  
silanol of the general formula  $RSi(OH)_3$ , wherein R is selected from methyl and up to about 40% of a group selected from the group  
consisting of vinyl, phenyl, gamma-glycidoxypentyl, and gamma-methacryloxypropyl, and (b) from about 95 to about 50 weight  
percent solvent, the solvent comprising from about 10 to about 90 weight percent water and from about 90 to about 10 weight per-  
cent lower aliphatic alcohol, wherein the coating composition has a pH of from about 3.0 to about 8.0, for the purpose of improving  
the surface smoothness of a polymeric substrate, particularly a heat-stabilised, heat-set, oriented polyester substrate, and use of said  
coated substrate in the manufacture of an electronic or opto-electronic device containing a conjugated conductive polymer.